

Remo *PTS* Update

Since my last review of the *PTS* products, Remo has made some advances and additions in their *Pre-Tuned* lines, which are surely worth looking at.

PTS Junior Pro Kit

To start very young drummers off right, Remo has developed a "kid-sized" *PTS* drumkit. The *Junior Pro* is available in a three-piece setup with a 10 x 16 bass drum, a 6 x 10 tom-tom, and a 4 x 12 snare drum, and a four-piece kit which adds a 10 x 12 floor tom. Both models include a snare stand, bass drum pedal, tom-tom holder (a long knurled L-rod), plus a 12" cymbal with bass drum shell-mount holder.

The *Junior Pro* uses the same *Acousticon* shells as the regular *PTS* kits. (*Acousticon* shells are made of a sophisticated Kraft paper impregnated with glues and resins, and then compressed to a wood density.) The kit also uses the same unique pre-tuned heads: Bright on the snare drum, and Mellow on the toms and bass drum. One difference lies in the snare drum: Instead of an external strainer, Remo has devised a knob-operated wire brush which is internally mounted. The brush rests on the bottom head to serve as "snare." The resulting sound has a lot of

looseness to it, but gets the general point across for kids.

The *Junior Pro* is miles above those paper drumsets found in department stores across the country. It is actually a miniature set of drums which, with the *Pre-Tuned* heads, sounds absolutely great! The kits are available in blue, red, or yellow and are just superb for kids. (Their parents may even want to take a turn!) The four-piece outfit retails at \$199.95, the three-piece at \$165.00.



Remo Muff'ls

Since *PTS* drums do not have any sort of muffling device, Remo developed a unique product which provides four choices of dampening with no mechanical attachments whatsoever. The drum dampening begins with a plastic O-ring tray that sits on the bearing edge of the drum, under the batter head. This plastic tray cuts 80% of the drum's overring, since it muffles the head around the edge of the collar, which is where most overtones emanate from.

For a greater degree of muffle, a foam O-ring can be added to eliminate overring completely. This ring resembles a *Dead-ringer*, but is of a different density foam, and it rests inside a circular channel on the plastic tray. Total batter head surface muffling is accomplished by using the full foam disc instead of the foam ring. In this case, the foam disc touches the full area of the head, reducing normal drumhead vibrations. Placing another full foam disc at the bottom of the drum cuts out all resonance, transforming the drumkit into a *practice* kit.

The *Muff'ls* are usable on all *PTS* drums, as well as on any conventional drums. They are available separately in



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sizes from 10" to 22", or can be purchased in sets. The *Ring Control* package includes the plastic tray and a foam O-ring. Retail cost ranges from \$4.50 to \$12.00 (depending on size). The *Sound Control* package has the plastic tray and two full foam discs, with prices ranging from \$5.00 to \$13.50. Remo has found a simple, inexpensive, effective way to muffle those annoying overtones on any drum, and to make silent practice on your own kit possible.

PTS Improvements

At the time of my previous *PTS* review (December '82), Remo was just getting started with their *PTS* products. They have since forged ahead in refining and enlarging the line, making it even more attractive for professional use.

6 1/2 x 14 Snare Drum



A 5 1/2" deep snare has replaced the 5" drum on all kits, and Remo has added an

optional 6 1/2 X 14 snare drum. The snare throw-off has been improved; Remo is now using a sturdier design, made by the Pearl factory. It is a side-throw strainer with fine-tune adjustment knob, and definitely works better than the previous model. The bass drum spurs have been beefed up and now feature threaded tips. Both the hi-hat stand and bass drum pedal have been changed to chain-pull. The action of the drum pedal is quite good, but the hi-hat still has a stiff "feel."

Double Tom-Tom Holders



Remo is offering a new double tom-tom floor stand for use with *PTS* drums. It has a single-braced tripod base and uses Pearl's old-style swivel ball hex arms. The most amazing thing is its list price of only \$58.50! (Hopefully, Remo will improve their tom-tom holder on the kits. At present, it has a different design than the one on the floor stand, and could use some beefing up and perhaps some lengthening as well.)

Available drumkit colors have been expanded to include white, black, and concord blue. The covering has been upgraded with the development of *Quadura*, a new plastic laminate which solves the past problem of wrinkling and ungluing. 7x10 and 12x14 tom-toms have been added, and even more tom-tom sizes are planned.



There are now three different series of outfits, each offering three-, four- or five-piece setups: the *3000*, with a 22" bass, the *2000*, with smaller drums overall, and the *1000*, which features all single-headed drums. Best of all, the price of the top five-piece kit has not changed since my first review: \$390.00 with hardware.

One interesting fact is that Remo is now making lug-tunable *PTS* kits for Slingerland, Kaman (distributors of CB-700), and Chas. Alden (distributors of Sonor). These kits enable fine-tuning of the pre-tuned heads for those who desire that flexibility. Remo has also added ethnic percussion to the *PTS* line. Currently available is a 4 x 16 Irish drum, 14" and 16" African tar drums, Brazilian tambourim, and a cuica (with a replaceable head).

Not content with stopping here, Remo recently introduced *PTS/CS* heads in Bright, Mellow and Dark tunings. These have the same qualities of the conventional *CS* clear heads. However, like the original coated *PTS* heads, they are of course, pre-tuned.

The development of Remo's *Pre-Tuned System* is quite an exciting thing to watch. In all honesty, I am completely blown away by its sound, affordability, and concept. My hat is off to Remo Belli for developing something that truly is revolutionary in the world of drums.

